

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Armando Hart, veteran leader of Cuban Revolution, tours Mexico  
PAGE 6

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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MAY 5, 2008

## Texas meeting sparks debate on prospects for revolution in the U.S.

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON AND ROBERT SILVER

DENTON, Texas—About 90 people, most of them students at the University of North Texas (UNT), participated in two events here on campus April 16 that featured presentations by Mary-Alice Waters on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The meetings generated lively discussions not only about socialist revolution in Cuba but about the need

Continued on page 7

## Truckers call national protest for April 28

BY NED MEASEL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Truck drivers from 24 states are planning a rally here April 28 to protest the high cost of fuel. Truckers are being squeezed by rising diesel prices, now averaging over \$4 per gallon, along with fuel taxes, insurance, and highway tariffs.

“As each day passes more and more truckers contact me,” Michael “JB” Schaffner told the *Militant* in a phone interview. Schaffner is a driver and one

Continued on page 9

## No work or school on May Day! Legalization for all immigrants!

The following statement was issued April 21 by Róger Calero, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president.

I urge working people across the United States to join the hundreds of thousands nationwide in taking off work on May 1 and participate in pro-

### Socialist Workers Campaign Statement

test actions to demand the immediate legalization of all undocumented workers, with no conditions.

This is part of reclaiming May 1 as an international day of workers’ struggle. We will join with thousands of other working people in cities and towns across the country to demand: Legalization for all!; Stop the raids and deportations!; and End Social Security “no-match” letters!

The U.S. ruling class—which profits from the superexploitation of a large section of the working class without legal documents—is stepping up its efforts to intimidate working people in the days leading up to May Day. The hated Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency carried out raids at workplaces in nine states April 16. This was an attempt to undermine the confidence our class has won in the streets in the last two May Days and intimidate undocumented workers into staying

Continued on page 9



Emergency picket line called April 16 at federal building in Houston to protest immigration raids that morning at a warehouse there and at poultry plants in five states.

## Houston rally protests ICE raids, builds May Day action

BY STEVE WARSHALL

HOUSTON, April 21—“I’m going to bring my wife and kids to march May Day this year, that’s going to be my protest of these raids,” a Latino worker who lives across the street from a Shipley Do-Nuts warehouse and company housing compound told the *Militant*. Twenty Shipley’s workers were arrested in an April 16 raid by federal immigration police.

“I looked down the street and I see all these cop cars in front of the trail-

ers,” the worker, who asked that his name not be printed, said. “I know these people, they’ve never caused any problems, they just worked hard like everybody in this neighborhood—and working for Shipley they don’t make much either. This is completely unjust.”

“That’s just people trying to work, they come into the country to try and feed their family,” Derek Shumake, who also lives across the street, told

Continued on page 9

## NEW FROM PATHFINDER

### Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?

by Mary-Alice Waters

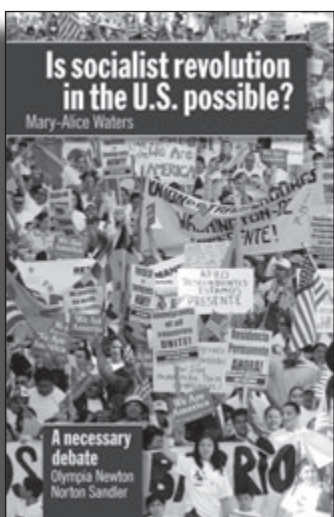
“Not only is socialist revolution possible; revolutionary struggle is inevitable. It will be initiated at first not by the toilers, but forced upon us by the crisis-driven assaults of the propertied classes. . . .

“What is not inevitable, however, is the outcome of these coming revolutionary struggles. That is where political clarity, organization, discipline, and the caliber of proletarian leadership become decisive.” —\$5

MAY DAY  
WEEK  
SPECIAL!

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## May Day actions for immigrant rights

### ARIZONA

**Tucson** 8 a.m. assemble at Southgate Shopping Center, march to Armory Park  
**CALIFORNIA**

**Fresno** 3 p.m. assemble at Fulton Mall and Mariposa St., march at 5 p.m.

**Los Angeles** 2 p.m. rallies at MacArthur Park and at Olympic and Broadway, then march to City Hall

**Oakland** 3 p.m. rally in Fruitvale Plaza, march to City Hall

**Romoland** 5 p.m. assemble at corner of 2nd St. and 74th

**San Diego** 2:30 p.m. rally at San Diego City College, march to Pantoja Park

**San Diego** 5:30 p.m. rally at 30th St. and Ocean Blvd.

**San Francisco** 2 p.m. rally in Dolores Park, march to Civic Center for 5 p.m. rally

**San Jose** 4 p.m. rally at corner of King and Story, march to San Jose City Hall

**Santa Rosa** noon assemble at Old Albertson’s lot, 665 Sebastopol Rd., 1 p.m. march to Julliard Park

### CONNECTICUT

**New Haven** noon to 8 p.m. New Haven Green

### FLORIDA

**Florida City** (May 3) 2 p.m. Antiguo Flea Market, 450 Davis Parkway

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta** 4 p.m. rally at state capitol

**Carrollton** 11 a.m. assemble at Carrollton Cultural Arts Center, noon

march to Courthouse

### ILLINOIS

**Chicago** 10 a.m. assemble at Union Park, march at noon

### KENTUCKY

**Louisville** 5 p.m. rally at Gene Snyder Courthouse, march to Jefferson Park

### MASSACHUSETTS

**Amherst** noon rally at Amherst Common

**Boston** 4:30 p.m. rally on Boston Common

**Chelsea** 2:30 p.m. rally in Glendale Park in Everett, march to Chelsea

### MICHIGAN

**Detroit** 10 a.m. rally in Patton Park, march to Clark Park

### MINNESOTA

**St. Paul** 2 p.m. march through St. Paul to state capitol

### NEW JERSEY

**Bridgeton** 4 p.m. assemble along river between Broad and Commerce streets

**Dover** 6 p.m. Blackwell St.

### NEW YORK

**Hempstead** 11:30 a.m. assemble at Front and Franklin St.

**Manhattan** noon rally at Union Square, 4 p.m. march

**Rochester** 4:30 p.m. rally at Liberty Pole on East Main and East Ave.

**Old Westbury** noon rally SUNY campus

### NORTH CAROLINA

**Charlotte** 4 p.m. assemble at Central Ave. and the Plaza, 6 p.m. march to Charlotte

Mecklenburg Government Center

**Raleigh** 5 p.m. rally at state capitol

### OREGON

**Portland** 4 p.m. assemble South Park Blocks

### PENNSYLVANIA

**Kennett Square** 3:30 p.m. assemble at Anson Nixon Park

**Pittsburgh** 3 p.m. assemble downtown by Allegheny Courthouse, 4 p.m. march to Mellon Square Park

### TEXAS

**Austin** 4:30 p.m. assemble at south steps of capitol, 5:30 p.m. march

**Houston** 2 p.m. Mickey Leland Federal Building, 1919 Smith St.

### WASHINGTON STATE

**Bellingham** 5:30 p.m. assemble at Maritime Heritage Park

**Seattle** 4 p.m. assemble at Judkins Park

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

noon pickets at Republican and Democratic National Committee offices, 4 p.m. rally at Malcolm X/ Meridian Hill Park

### WISCONSIN

**Madison** 11:30 a.m. Brittingham Park

**Milwaukee** 10:30 a.m. assemble at South 5th and Washington, march begins 11:30 a.m.

### CANADA

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Vancouver** 5:30 p.m. Clark Park

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# Socialist candidate Calero salutes Seattle workers for standing up to bosses

BY CHRIS HOEPFNER

SEATTLE—"It's an honor to be here among fighters," said Róger Calero, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, referring to three fellow workers who joined him on the platform at an April 13 Militant Labor Forum here.

Also speaking at the campaign event were Jessie Hasting, a grocery store worker who is a member of the Young Socialists and of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 21, and Sally Marshall, a member of UFCW Local 21 who won her job back after a successful fight by her coworkers. They were joined on the platform by Jim Bynum, a warehouse worker in Kent, Washington, who was part of a fight to win unemployment benefits for a coworker who was fired after campaigning for socialist candidates after work. (See article "Seattle-area warehouse workers organize against firing of socialist campaign supporter" in the March 24 issue of the *Militant*.)

"I'm glad that I was able to be part of a fight that won," said Marshall, who was fired for giving a worker a \$4 discount on food. "At first I didn't think I would get my job back. I was surprised by the support."

"We filed a grievance and got 30 signatures protesting the firing and the boss backed down," explained Hasting. "First he wanted her to go to another store, but she said no and we got her back." Hasting also described how she and her coworkers are building the Seattle May

Day march for immigrant rights at the store "by talking it up and posting flyers on the union bulletin board."

"I feel privileged to be part of this," said Bynum. "I joined together with other workers at the warehouse when Ceceilia Moriarity, a supporter of the socialist campaign, was unjustly fired. I'm glad to announce that the Washington State unemployment office just awarded Ceceilia unemployment benefits even after the employer contested it, since they had no evidence to back up their false accusations against her."

Bynum, who said he started reading the *Militant* after his coworkers introduced it to him, said that he has joined socialist candidates protesting immigration raids at the Northwest Detention Center. "This is new for me," he said.

Calero also met with students at Green River Community College in Auburn, Washington, who are discussing how to respond to a rightist anti-immigrant campaign on campus. In March, a group called Citizens for a Better America distributed cards urging students to turn undocumented students and workers into the police for arrest and deportation. The cards have also appeared at elementary and high schools in the area.

One student told Calero that the school administration has urged them to keep their response neutral and modest, such as conducting an opinion poll on campus rather than organizing a public protest. "What do you think?" she asked.



Militant photos by Scott Breen

Róger Calero, SWP candidate for president, speaks at April 13 panel discussion in Seattle. Seated to his right are panelists Jessie Hasting and Sally Marshall, grocery store workers who won a fight against the bosses' attempt to fire Marshall. Inset, panelist Jim Bynum, a warehouse worker involved in a similar fight, speaks.

"Workers learn that if they try to keep quiet and hide, the attacks on our rights and our living standards keep coming and worsen," Calero said. "When we unite and protest publicly with as many other workers as possible, we defend ourselves and win new support. We put the opponents of immigrants' and workers' rights on notice that we won't take these assaults in silence." Calero suggested the students organize a contingent from their campus to march in the May Day action in Seattle.

Calero also campaigned at a "Unity in the Community" action at the University of Washington, organized against a "Tag the Immigrant" provocation planned and later cancelled by the College Republicans.

"Workers coming to this country is not a problem," said Calero. "It is the anti-immigrant policies of the bosses who exploit them and the U.S. government that serves the interests of the bosses that is the problem." Calero explained that there is no representative of the working class in the government, and that capitalist politicians approach the question of immigration as one of how best to maintain a second-class layer of the working class. That's why working people need to form a labor party, based on trade unions tested in struggle, that can fight in the political arena for legalization of all the undocumented, an is-

sue that is deeply important to the working class.

One student asked, "But if you are for opening the borders, how are we going to deal with the already crowded conditions like we face here on campus?"

"The lack of facilities on this campus and in this country—in housing, schools, and hospitals—is caused by the failure by the rulers to invest money in things that the working class needs," said Calero. "When elected I will introduce legislation to implement a massive public works program to build the infrastructure and facilities we need. And I will invite workers from Mexico and other countries to help tear down the wall being constructed on the border with Mexico and to do so receiving pay at union-scale wages."

Mary Martin and Edwin Fruit contributed to this article.

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## THE MILITANT

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Workers protest intimidation and firing of workers at Chicago factory on March 19.

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# FBI harassment meets resistance in Puerto Rico

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

April 21—The latest attempt by the U.S. government to harass and intimidate Puerto Rican independence fighters was met by protests today in Puerto Rico and New York.

On April 16, FBI agents attempted to interrogate independence activists at their homes in five of Puerto Rico's municipalities. According to the Caribbean and Latin American Coordinating Committee of Puerto Rico, those harassed included Tania Delgado, Miguel Viqueira, Miguel Sánchez, and José Castillo.

"When Miguel [Viqueira] was getting ready to leave for work, several armed agents with bulletproof vests identified with the initials FBI surrounded him and began threatening him in a hostile and proactive manner," said a press release issued by the New School, the proindependence group to which Delgado and Viqueira belong.

Viqueira told the Orlando, Florida, *El Sentinel* that the agents said they were watching him and that he should be careful. Viqueira refused to cooperate, and the agents eventually left.

Two men and a woman in a white van approached Delgado, a 29-year-old lawyer. After she insisted on her right to an attorney, the agents left.

According to the Coordinating Committee, in at least one of the cases, FBI cops accused an independence fighter of being a member of the Popular Boricua Army-Macheteros and told her they knew her guerrilla name. Federal agents "are harassing the independence movement in their

eagerness to remind us that they are in charge here, and that this is a colony," said Héctor Pesquera, cochair of the Hostos National Independence Movement. That organization was one of the main sponsors of the protest in Puerto Rico, which demanded, "FBI, out of my country!"

In a separate incident April 18, FBI agents surrounded the working-class neighborhood La Perla on the outskirts of San Juan. Carrying assault rifles and wearing bulletproof vests and riot gear, 20 FBI agents together with about 25 national cops blocked off the neighborhood for nearly two hours. The operation was preceded by a series of raids in Puerto Rico supposedly aimed at drug trafficking and white-collar crime.

## N.Y. picket protests FBI probe in Puerto Rico

BY MAURA DELUCA

NEW YORK, April 21—Some 25 people picketed lower Manhattan's Federal Plaza today in response to increasing FBI harassment of independence activists in Puerto Rico.

"It looks like the FBI is harassing the younger, newer generation of promising leadership in the independence movement," said Ana López, a longtime in-



Roberto Mercado

Dozens protested FBI harassment of Puerto Rican *independentistas* April 21 in New York

dependence activist.

Former Puerto Rican political prisoner Dylcia Pagán pointed out that the FBI's campaign is occurring during the build up to the gubernatorial elections in Puerto Rico. "The statehood party candidate, [Luis] Fortuño, promises to stop 'subversives,'" she said.

"I think the FBI is stepping up its harassment for several reasons," said

Camilo Matos, 27, of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party of New York. "One, to make sure they get funding from the U.S. Two, because they thought they'd be heroes for killing [independence fighter] Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, which backfired on them so they're trying to cover their tracks. Three, when the economy slows down, they get scared of social unrest."

## Conference opposes U.S. threats vs. Venezuela

BY SAM MANUEL

WASHINGTON—An April 18–20 national educational conference on Venezuela condemned efforts by members of the U.S. Congress to add Caracas to Washington's list of state sponsors of terrorism. More than 130 people from across the United States participated in the meeting, which was held at Howard University.

The conference featured panel discussions on a series of topics including Venezuela's trade union and peasant movements, energy and the environment, and the country's international relations.

"We will not sacrifice our agenda of social change," said Bernardo Alvarez, Venezuelan ambassador to the United States, at the opening session. Alvarez reviewed a range of government-sponsored social programs in health care, education, employment, agricultural production, and housing that have increased popular expectations in the South American nation.

It is because of these programs, Alvarez said, that there is now talk of adding Venezuela to Washington's list of sponsors of terrorism. Florida congressional representatives Connie Mack and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen have asked the State Department to add Venezuela to the list, which would mean sanctions, restrictions on foreign aid, and penalties for individuals and countries engaging in certain types of trade with Venezuela. Alvarez noted that the Organization of American States (OAS) has rejected charges of terrorism against Venezuela.

"There is no evidence, and no member country, including this one [the United States], has offered the OAS such proof," José Insulza, the head of the Organization of American States, told an April 10 hearing of the House Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

In early March the Colombian military carried out an air strike in Ecua-

dor against a base of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Bogotá claims that computer files retrieved from the site show support by the Venezuelan government for the guerrilla group.

"The U.S. government hasn't a shred of evidence for its accusation of terrorism against Venezuela," said José Pertierra, an attorney in Venezuela's request for the extradition of Luis Posada Cariles. "There is, however, much evidence of the terrorist activities of Posada and U.S. government knowledge of it."

Posada has a long record as a leader of U.S.-trained Cuban counterrevolutionary groups that have carried out deadly attacks against Cuba. He is wanted to

stand trial in Caracas for his role in the 1975 bombing of a Cuban passenger jet over Barbados that killed 73 people.

Other speakers at the conference included Adina Bastidas, a vice president of Venezuela from 2000 to 2002; Julio Chávez, mayor of Torres, Venezuela; Jorge Guerrero, Venezuelan consul in New Orleans and a founder of the Network of Afro-Venezuelan Organizations; Manuel Rodríguez, Venezuelan vice minister for the environment, and Eva Golinger, a Venezuelan-American lawyer and author of *The Chávez Code*.

In a final session conference participants discussed plans to tour trade unionists and officials from Venezuela as part of an educational campaign.

## SWP candidate for vice president speaks to 300 at Rutgers University

BY NANCY ROSENSTOCK AND SARA LOBMAN

NEWARK, New Jersey—"I like what you have to say but the Democrats and Republicans have the money. Besides, don't we really need to start at a local level to make a difference?" a student asked Alyson Kennedy, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. vice president.

Kennedy was addressing a sociology class of some 300 students at the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick on April 15. She had been invited by Professor Robyn Rodriguez, who had been part of organizing a program the previous week on the book *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*. The book is published by Pathfinder.

While it's true the capitalist parties have money, the working class has something more powerful, Kennedy told the students. "Working people

can change the world," she explained. "Look at how we fought to establish industrial unions in the 1930s and to end Jim Crow segregation in the 1950s and '60s. But we need our own party, a labor party based on a fighting union movement, that can take on the bosses and their two-party system."

Kennedy also spoke at a program organized by Radicals, a feminist organization on campus.

Several days earlier, Kennedy joined some 90 truck drivers at a meeting to celebrate their successful one-day strike against the high price of fuel on April 1. The drivers announced plans for another strike on April 30 and May 1.

Kennedy was invited to speak at the end of the meeting. She reported on the convoy of truckers in Georgia that she had joined on April 1. Kennedy also related her experiences as one of the leaders of a 10-month strike of coal miners in Utah.

## MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Is Socialist Revolution in the United States Possible?** Speaker: Margaret Trowe, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 17th C.D. Sun., May 4. Program, 2 p.m. 8365 NE 2nd Ave. Room 206. Tel: (305) 756-4436.

### IOWA

#### Des Moines

**Militant Fund Event.** Speaker: Rebecca Williamson, Minnesota SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in 5th C.D. Sun., May 4. Lunch, 1 p.m.; Program, 2 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel: (515) 255-1707.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**From Immigrant Rights Actions to Independent Truckers' Protests: How Can Working People Defend Our Rights?** Fri., May 2. Program, 8 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd floor. Tel: (973) 481-0077.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Philadelphia

**Legalization Now! Stop the Raids and Deportations!** Speaker: Osborne Hart, SWP candidate for U.S. Congress, 2nd C.D. Fri., May 2. Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 188 W. Wyoming Ave. Tel: (215) 455-2682.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?** Speaker: Jacquie Henderson, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., May 3. Dinner, 6:30 pm; program, 7:30 pm. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 4800 W 34th St, Suite C-51A. Tel: (713) 688-4919.



‘Skip class and work—
Celebrate May Day!’

This column is written and edited by members of the Young Socialists, a revolutionary socialist youth organization. For more information contact the YS at 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018; tel. (212) 629-6649; e-mail: youngsocialists@mac.com.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS
IN ACTION

BY BEN O'SHAUGHNESSY

With less than a week until May Day, young socialists around the country are gearing up to join thousands of workers at marches and rallies to demand legalization for all undocumented immigrants. Many are not going to work or school and are encouraging others to join them in the streets to reclaim May 1 as a workers' holiday in the United States.

"I am telling others to skip class and work," said Aaron Bleich, a member of the Socialist Club at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. "Let's celebrate like it's supposed to be, as a holiday for workers."

On April 24 Bleich will speak on a panel at Iowa State with Mary-Alice

Waters, president of Pathfinder Press, and others on the book Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution. Bleich and other young socialists have also been building actions for May 1 in Chicago and St. Paul, Minnesota.

"We have been promoting the action in St. Paul with the May Day coalition here," said Rebecca Williamson, a spokesperson for the Young Socialists for Calero and Kennedy. Róger Calero is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president. Alyson Kennedy is his running mate.

Williamson is also a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 789 at Dakota Premium Foods in South St. Paul. Workers at her plant are currently in a fight with the company for a new contract. Williamson explained that the local will have a contingent at the May 1 immigrant rights march.

"On the job, we have been explaining that this isn't just a question for immigrants, but for all workers," said Williamson. "The bosses try to use immigrant labor to divide us and weaken our ability to fight. The struggle at Dakota Premium Foods has shown what is pos-



Militant/Robert Silver

February 16 march in Minneapolis for immigrant rights. Young Socialists there are actively building a rally for May 1 at work, on campuses, and in working-class communities.

sible when workers overcome these divisions and fight in our class interests."

Young socialists for Calero and Kennedy in New York City are aiming to help sell hundreds of copies of the new Pathfinder pamphlet Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible? during the

special campaign week. They have been active in building the May Day demonstrations in Union Square and in Hempstead, Long Island.

Robert Silver contributed to this column.

Fund drive is 10% behind;
five areas raise their quotas

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Half way through the drive to raise \$100,000 to fund the Militant newspaper, supporters in cities around the world have stepped up activities to get on schedule. Last week \$16,189 was sent in, the highest amount in any week so far.

Supporters in Chicago, Los Angeles, Twin Cities, Australia, and Canada raised their fund quotas. This has helped to close the gap between pledges and the goal.

The drive is still 10 percent behind schedule. Attention to catching up is needed everywhere readers have adopted a quota.

Over the next couple of weeks, fund events are planned in a number of cities. Please send in notes on how the work is going in your area as well as reports or photos from fund meetings. Below is an account of the fund-raising meeting in Los Angeles on April 19.

BY ARLENE RUBINSTEIN

LOS ANGELES—After a special forum for the Militant Fund, supporters in Los Angeles decided to raise their goal again this week, to \$9,500. Ernie Mailhot, a longtime union activist who is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Minnesota, was the featured speaker at the program.

Mailhot discussed the tightening squeeze on working people with the spreading capitalist economic crisis. He pointed to the contract fight at the Dakota Premium meatpacking plant in South St. Paul, Minnesota, as an example of the increased resistance by workers in the United States, documented and undocumented.

Pedro Albarran, a supporter of the Militant newspaper and a Los Angeles meat packer, made an appeal for people to contribute to the fund. He explained that he has been an activist on the job and in the union for the 14 years he has

been working at his plant. "But the Militant has transformed me," he said. "I was a fighter, but for myself and for my union. Now I am thinking much more broadly, and learning about the world. I understand how things are connected, I am constantly learning more. We all need to contribute money to keep the Militant going and to get it out to more workers."

Albarran read a message from Erendira Valadez, a sewing machine operator who has been a subscriber for the last year. Her message stressed the importance of the Militant's factual reporting of what is going on in the lives of workers. The meeting collected \$1,988.

Subscription target week is
good opportunity to catch up

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

April 23—The Militant's eight-week campaign to win 2,400 new readers is more than 200 subscriptions short of the 1,200 needed to be on schedule. A special campaign target week—April 28 to May 5—will be a great opportunity to turn that around by reaching out broadly on campuses, in working-class communities, and at actions to demand legaliza-

tion of immigrant workers.

Efforts to win new subscribers will get a boost by the special offer on the brand-new Pathfinder pamphlet Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?, which will be available for just \$1 with a subscription that week only.

There are plenty of opportunities to win new readers even before the target week begins.

"In the yearly César Chávez parade and festival, the Socialist Workers campaign had a table," wrote Lea Sherman from San Francisco. "We sold six Militant subscriptions, 18 single copies of the paper, and \$110 in Pathfinder books."

"We had a really good week," reported Susan Lamont from Carrollton, Georgia. Supporters of the paper there sold four subscriptions as part of efforts to build the May Day action for legalization of immigrants in that town, four going door-to-door in the Black community, and several to students and truck drivers.

In Texas, supporters of the paper got a boost to the subscription effort building speaking engagements for Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the Pathfinder book Our History Is Still Being Written, at the University of North Texas in Denton. "We sold 11 subscriptions, 5 of these with the Cuba and the Coming American Revolution special offer, and 4 with The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning pamphlet," writes Jacquie Henderson. The book Cuba and the Coming American Revolution is available for half price, just \$5, with a subscription for the duration of the circulation drive.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Quota, Sold, %. Rows include New Zealand, United Kingdom, London, Edinburgh, UK Total, Australia, United States, Newark, NJ, San Francisco, Twin Cities, Des Moines, IA, Boston, Carrollton, GA, New York, Houston, Doraville, GA, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Chicago, Seattle, Albuquerque, NM, Other, U.S. Total, SWEDEN, CANADA, Int'l Totals, Goals/Should be.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Quota, Paid, %. Rows include FRANCE, CANADA\*, AUSTRALIA\*, UNITED STATES, Los Angeles\*, Newark, NJ, San Francisco, Miami, Seattle, Chicago\*, New York, Washington, D.C.\*, Twin Cities\*, Des Moines, IA, Carrollton, GA, Boston, Houston, Doraville, GA, Philadelphia, Other, U.S. total, SWEDEN, NEW ZEALAND, UNITED KINGDOM, Edinburgh, London, UK total, Total, Goal/Should be.



## — ON THE PICKET LINE —

### **General Motors workers strike in Lansing, Michigan**

Some 2,300 members of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 602 at General Motors Lansing plant shut down production April 17 over a contract dispute.

One of the main issues is how to implement a two-tier wage scale agreement the UAW and GM made during national contract negotiations last October. The company is demanding that “noncore production” workers get about half the wage of assembly line workers.

The strike comes as more than two dozen GM plants remain idle because of a strike by workers at American Axle and Manufacturing, a GM parts supplier.

Local 602’s walkout came a day after UAW workers struck Alliance Interiors, a plant supplying carpeting for the vehicles produced at the Lansing plant.

—Ved Dookhun

### **New Zealand unionists fight for collective contract**

HAMILTON, New Zealand—Ten workers picketed outside Ecolab’s Hamilton factory April 16, as their strike entered its third week. Fifteen members of the Engineers, Printing and Manufacturing Union walked off the job April 2 to press their demands for a contract with higher pay and improved working conditions.

The strike began after Ecolab, which makes industrial cleaners, refused to discuss the workers’ demands. They have been trying to negotiate a contract for

the past 18 months. A central demand has been to join the Metals and Manufacturing Multi-Employer Collective Agreement, which covers around 2,000 workers at 180 companies and sets the going rates and conditions for workers across the sector. Currently all Ecolab workers are on individual contracts.

The closed shop has been banned in New Zealand since 1991. Almost all unionized workplaces operate under a contract with the union as well as with individual workers.

In the face of this kind of treatment workers have been joining the union. There are about 50 workers at the Hamilton factory. Under the impact of the strike a few workers at other Ecolab sites around the country have now joined the union. “A lot more people want to sign up but are too afraid,” said union delegate Phillip Strawbridge. “If we get a contract more people will want to join the union.”

—Ruth Gray



Militant/Annalucia Vermunt

Pickets outside Ecolab in Hamilton, New Zealand. More workers are joining the union under the impact of the strike.

## ‘Terrorist’ frame-up unravels in Toronto

BY JOHN STEELE

TORONTO—The suspension of criminal charges against four adults accused of belonging to an al-Qaeda inspired terror cell marked a further unraveling of the government’s case against the so-called Toronto 18. These are 14 Muslim men and four youths arrested in June 2006 in a cop sting operation that received headlines around the world.

The arrests marked the first time

alleged terrorists were charged in Canada using criminal laws implemented after the 9/11 attacks. Under a court-imposed ban on the publication of the judicial proceedings, the media published sensational stories of the defendants’ alleged plans to storm Parliament Hill in Ottawa, take politicians hostage, and behead the prime minister.

The alleged terrorist cell was reported to have held an armed training camp in the countryside north of Toronto, and to have plotted to use truck bombs to blow up the Toronto Stock Exchange and the offices of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

“I am innocent. I have nothing to do with this terrorism thing,” said former bus driver Abdul Qayyum Jamal outside the courthouse after winning a stay of the charges. He told reporters that he attended a winter camp where he played paintball. “Everybody is allowed to do that,” he said.

Jamal, who spent 13 of his 17 months in solitary confinement, was depicted as an Islamic firebrand and ring leader of the “terrorist cell” because he was older than the rest of those picked up in the

police sweep. This view was reinforced when then Liberal Member of Parliament Wajid Khan told reporters he once heard Jamal at a mosque badmouthing Canada’s troops in Afghanistan. Jamal was a caretaker at the Al-Rahman Islamic Centre.

Three of the four defendants, including Jamal, were forced to sign peace bonds in order to win their stay of charges. While no wrong-doing is admitted, they face strict conditions for a year because the court says there are grounds to believe they could commit a “terror-related” offense. They are forbidden from associating with the other accused, must abide by a curfew, and surrender their passports.

The government can reinstitute the charges within the year. However, if Jamal and the others remain on good behavior and obey their curfews for this period the charges could be dropped.

In February and July of 2007 the charges against three of the four arrested youths were suspended. This leaves 10 adults and one youth still facing trial. The adults remain in jail. At least two are in solitary confinement where they have been since their arrests.

## Canada mining giant tries to censor book about Africa

BY MICHEL PRAIRIE

MONTREAL—A collective of academic researchers called Ressources d’Afrique (Africa’s resources) and the Montreal-based publishing house Écosociété are engaged in a battle with Canadian mining giant Barrick Gold over the publication of *Noir Canada, pillage, corruption et criminalité en Afrique* (Black Canada: plundering, corruption, and crime in Africa).

Written by Alain Deneault in collaboration with Delphine Abadie and William Sacher, *Noir Canada* is a detailed and well-documented exposé of the role of Canadian mining companies in Africa. The book’s back cover says, “Canada politically and economically supports Canadian mining and oil companies that exploit the African soil, pocket huge profits, especially at the Toronto Stock Market, while they are guilty of the worst abuses in Africa.” The book “eloquently demonstrates that Canada is far from being this ‘friend of Africa’ that it claims to be.”

On April 10, the evening before the announced launching of the book, Écosociété received a formal notice by a law firm representing Barrick Gold, the biggest gold producer in the world, with 27 operating mines on four continents. Barrick Gold threatened the publishing house, its board members, and the book’s authors with a lawsuit “if Écosociété goes ahead with the launching scheduled for April 11 and distributes even a single copy” of the book. Barrick objects to a section in *Noir Canada* about the company’s involvement in the deaths of 52 Tanzanian miners in 1996.

That evening, Écosociété suspended the launching of the book, attended by some 75 people. After meeting with its board and the authors, it announced April 14 that it had decided to publish the book despite Barrick’s threats.

The fight has received significant coverage in the media here. Ressources d’Afrique and Écosociété have launched a campaign to publicize the case. Messages of support can be sent to contact@ressourcesdafrique.org.

## — 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO —



May 6, 1983

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—A spirited picket line of 300 angry laid-off General Motors workers marched in front of the G.M. Leeds plant in Kansas City April 16 shouting “Bring us back! We want work!”

The demonstration was called by the Laid-off Workers Council of United Auto Workers Local 93 in response to the institution of overtime for the first shift while 1,500 workers remain laid-off.

The hand-made signs on the picket line included one that said, “I’m hungry, give my Mommy back her job.” Some 30 percent of the picketers were women, reflecting the fact that the layoff of the second shift in July 1982 left virtually no women in the plant due to their low seniority.



May 5, 1958

After the recent failure of the attempted overthrow of his regime by Fidel Castro, Cuban dictator Batista has been cracking the whip over the people.

A state of “national emergency” has already existed since April 1.

Except for territory in Oriente province held by the Castro forces, the Cuban people have had democratic rights for only 45 days this year—and these mostly on paper.

As Ward Cannel cynically observes in the April 15 *New York World Telegram*, “A democratic government would mean more people to pay off.”

But far worse could happen too. The Cuban workers and farmers could take advantage of democratic freedoms to organize against U.S. exploitation and end it once and for all.



May 6, 1933

Fifteen hundred farmers, assembled at a convention of the National Holiday Association in Des Moines, Iowa, have voted drastic measures to be taken immediately, to relieve their misery and to stave off the attack of the bankers and the government.

Several days before, 600 farmers dragged Judge C. C. Bradley from his courtroom in Lemars, Iowa, when he refused to swear he would sign no more mortgage foreclosures. In Denison, the farmers, 800 strong, battled a sheriff and 40 deputies and prevented them from selling the farm of J. F. Shields.

The rebellion of the farmers can and should be coordinated with the movement of the workers against the Roosevelt program, which will further depress the living conditions of the city toilers.



# Historic leader of Cuban Revolution tours Mexico

## Books describe how Armando Hart became ‘a revolutionary and a Fidelista’

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

ZACATECAS, Mexico—Hundreds of students, teachers, writers, artists, and others heard Armando Hart, an historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, during a week-long speaking tour in the cities of Monterrey and Zacatecas, in north-central Mexico.

Hart was invited to speak on “Marx and Martí in the Roots of Cuba’s Socialist Revolution” and related themes. José Martí was the most outstanding anti-imperialist leader in Latin America in the late 19th century and the central organizer of Cuba’s final independence struggle against Spanish colonial rule.

Four books by and about Hart were presented at the April 6–12 meetings: *José Martí: Apóstol de nuestra América* (José Martí: Apostle of Our America); *Sin permiso de la OEA* (Without Permission from the OAS); *Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground, 1952–58*; and *Armando Hart Dávalos: un revolucionario cubano* (Armando Hart Dávalos: a Cuban Revolutionary). Also presented was a booklet describing the Armando Hart Archive, an ongoing effort to collect and publish his writings and historic documents of the revolution. *Aldabonazo* was published by Pathfinder Press, the other four by Mexican publisher Plaza y Valdés.

In Monterrey, capital of the state of Nuevo León, meetings were held at the José Martí Institute for Higher Education, the Autonomous University of Nuevo León, and the Museum of Mexican History.

In Zacatecas, seven hours south of Monterrey, Hart spoke at the Institute of Culture in nearby Guadalupe, the Zacatecas Institute of Culture, and the Technological Institute. He was the guest of honor at the unveiling of a bust of José Martí in Guadalupe, and at a reception at a photo gallery, welcomed at both events by the governor of the state of Zacatecas, Amalia García. In Guadalupe, mayor Samuel Herrera proclaimed him a “distinguished guest” at a ceremony held at city hall. Several of the events drew 150–200 people.

At each of the meetings, Hart spoke about the influence of Martí’s anti-imperialist legacy on the generation of Cubans, including himself, who led the 1959 Cuban Revolution, the first socialist revolution in the Americas. Today, he argued, these revolutionary ideas and experiences are needed for those throughout the Americas—including in the United States—seeking to confront the worldwide social crisis.

Also speaking at the meetings were



Militant photos by Tom Baumann

**Top:** Panel at April 11 meeting at Zacatecas Institute of Culture in Zacatecas, Mexico. **From left:** Eloisa Carreras; Mexican writer Pablo González Casanova; José Francisco Román of the Autonomous University of Zacatecas; Armando Hart; editor and researcher Raúl Rojas; Samuel Herrera, mayor of Guadalupe; and Martín Koppel. **Bottom:** The audience.

Cuban researcher Eloisa Carreras; Raúl Rojas, a researcher at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) in Mexico City; and Martín Koppel, a Pathfinder Press editor and writer for the *Militant*. At several of the events they were joined by Eulogio Rodríguez, Cuba’s consul for northern and central Mexico.

### Lessons remain relevant

Carreras, who has compiled and edited several titles by Hart, said these books describe “how Armando Hart became a revolutionary and a Fidelista,” and why the lessons of the Cuban Revolution remain relevant “to confront the challenges of the 21st century.”

Rojas explained that in 1955 Hart became a founding leader of the July 26 Movement, which, under the leadership of Fidel Castro, led the struggle against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista. Hart was a central organizer of the July 26 Movement’s urban underground, which gave vital support to the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maestra mountains. Rojas recounted how Hart carried out a bold escape from jail in 1957.

After the January 1959 overthrow of the Batista regime, Hart, at age 28, be-

came minister of education in the new revolutionary government, directing the mass campaign that wiped out illiteracy in 1961. In 1976 he became the first minister of culture, and today is the director of the Martí Program.

Rojas, editor of the four titles published by Plaza y Valdés, described the meticulous work involved in producing them, a two-year-long project. *José Martí: Apóstol de nuestra América* is about the life and work of Martí. *Armando Hart Dávalos: un revolucionario cubano*, by Carreras, is a biographical sketch of Hart.

*Sin permiso de la OEA* is a tribute to Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos. The title is a quote from a 1976 speech by Fidel Castro noting that Panama under Torrijos had reestablished diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1974 “without permission from the OAS,” the Organization of American States.

Rojas recounted that originally the book was to have been published in Panama, with a subsidy from the government there. But its release coincided with an OAS summit in that country last summer, and the Panamanian government demanded the title be changed. Hart refused, so it was published in Mexico this year.

Carreras introduced Koppel, who presented *Aldabonazo*. She thanked Pathfinder Press for publishing the book, and introduced the others from the United States who brought copies of that title and helped organize the display of books on sale at all the meetings: Ellie García, a socialist and garment worker from Atlanta; Tom Baumann, a Young Socialist in New York; and Linda Joyce and Pat Leamon, volunteers in the Pathfinder Printing Project from West Virginia and North Carolina, respectively.

Koppel explained that Pathfinder published *Aldabonazo*, in English and Spanish, “because it is needed by working people and youth, in the United States and around the world.” Describ-

ing the stepped-up assaults by the U.S. employers and government on workers’ living standards and rights, he pointed to recent examples of working-class resistance—from protests by independent truck drivers against skyrocketing fuel costs to the upcoming May Day actions to demand legal status for undocumented immigrants.

“Cuba’s socialist revolution offers a living example of how to fight and how to win,” Koppel said. “For fighting workers, and youth attracted to their struggles, books such as *Aldabonazo* are political weapons today and in the class battles to come.”

### Cuba’s literacy campaign

On the evening of April 7, a book presentation attended by 100 people was held at the José Martí Institute for Higher Education, a small private college with academic ties to the University of Havana. That morning Hart swore in the officers of the José Martí Cultural Foundation, a newly established organization in Torreón, in the neighboring state of Coahuila, and spoke to half a dozen newspaper and TV reporters.

Carlos Caballero, president of the Martí Cultural Foundation, spoke with enthusiasm about the four ophthalmology clinics that have been set up in Coahuila, staffed by Cuban volunteer doctors, as part of the worldwide Cuban initiative called Operation Miracle. Tens of thousands of working people and children in Coahuila have undergone cataract operations, free of charge, to restore their eyesight.

One of the reporters asked Hart, “As a leader of what has been called the most successful literacy campaign in the history of Latin America, what would you recommend for us here, where there is a high level of illiteracy?”

“I can’t tell you what to do here,” Hart answered. “In Cuba, we made a revolution.”

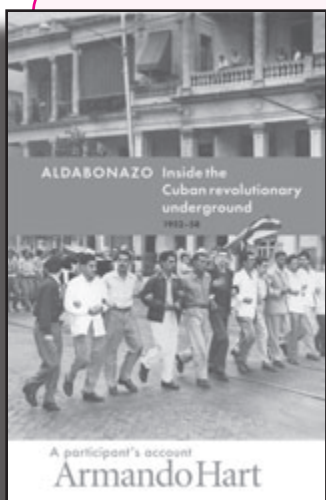
Hart was asked questions about the fight against illiteracy at virtually all the meetings he addressed. At a meeting of nearly 200 at the Museum of Mexican History, sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the José Martí Cultural Society in Monterrey, he gave a more detailed account of the Cuban literacy campaign of 1961. More than 100,000 volunteer teachers, mostly teenagers, went into the countryside, and within a year illiteracy was reduced from 30 percent to barely 4 percent, he said.

“The success of this campaign required mass support and participation,” the Cuban leader said. It involved the unions, neighborhood defense committees, and organizations of women, peasants, and students. When literacy volunteers were murdered by U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries, people responded with large protest demonstrations.

### Revolutionary heritage

The Cuban Revolution, Hart pointed out in each of his talks, draws on more than a century of revolutionary continuity. In the 1920s, early communist leaders such as Julio Antonio Mella were influenced by the Bolshevik-led Russian Revolution of October 1917 under

**Continued on page 7**



### Aldabonazo: Inside the Cuban Revolutionary Underground, 1952–58

A participant’s account

By Armando Hart

In this firsthand account by a historic leader of the Cuban Revolution, we meet men and women who led the urban underground in the fight against the brutal U.S.-backed tyranny in the 1950s. Together with their comrades-in-arms in the Rebel Army, they not only overthrew the dictatorship. Their revolutionary actions and example worldwide changed the history of the 20th century—and this century as well. \$25.00 Also available in Spanish.

[www.pathfinderpress.com](http://www.pathfinderpress.com)



# Texas campus meeting

Continued from front page

for one in this country.

*Our History Is Still Being Written*, published by Pathfinder Press, contains interviews with three Chinese-Cuban generals—Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui, and Moisés Sío Wong—who as teenagers joined in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow Cuban military dictator Fulgencio Batista in the 1950s and are active leaders of the revolution today.

At the invitation of Prof. Mariela Nuñez-James, Waters spoke to 45 students in an applied anthropology class on the book and her own involvement in social and political struggles in the United States, a portion of which is described in another Pathfinder book, *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*.

Following the class, she was the featured speaker at an event sponsored by the UNT Division of Equity and Diversity, the Multicultural Center, the Registrar's Office, and the Departments of Anthropology and Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Ignacio López-Calvo from the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department introduced Waters to the nearly 50 students and faculty present. He spoke about the history of Chinese immigration to Cuba and his research on Chinese culture in Cuba today.

After reading the stories told by Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong, López-Calvo said, he had decided to revise his soon-to-be published book on images of Chinese in Cuba. López-Calvo presented Waters with a certificate of appreciation from the campus Multicultural Center.

Before Waters spoke, an excerpt from the video *Ancestors in the Americas: Coolies, Sailors, and Settlers* was shown. Produced by documentary filmmaker Loni Ding, whose parents were born in China, it vividly depicts the trade in indentured laborers from China who were brought to work on the sugar plantations in Cuba in the 19th century.

Waters described how Choy, Chui, and Sío Wong “grew up in different parts of Cuba, in different circumstances, and like hundreds of thousands of young people threw themselves into the struggle to overthrow the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

“With the fall of Batista on January 1, 1959, they set out to create a society with greater social equality and justice.

“They carried out a land reform, giving titles to more than 100,000 families. They carried out a literacy drive, mobilizing 100,000 young people to wipe out illiteracy in Cuba in less than a year.

“The revolutionary government made discrimination in hiring and social services based on the color of one's skin illegal. And they enforced it. They opened the door to employment for women.”

In doing this, Waters said, the revolutionary leadership came into conflict with the economic interests of wealthy Cuban families and U.S. imperialism. Millions of acres of the best land in Cuba as well as the public utilities, railroads, refineries, and much more were owned by U.S. families.

When Washington mobilized to reverse these measures, the Cubans refused to back down. “To this day,” said

Waters, “this remains the source of the U.S. government's unabated hostility toward the Cuban Revolution.”

**‘Isn't Cuba a dictatorship?’**

“But how can you defend Cuba?” asked a student from Mexico. “Isn't it a dictatorship?”

“No, it is not a dictatorship,” Waters answered. “Working people in Cuba exercise greater control over the most fundamental policies that determine their lives than here in ‘democratic’ America. This is expressed not only through elections but through workplace assemblies and many other forms.

“It is mass popular support that has enabled the Cuban Revolution to advance, under the most difficult circumstances, and to stand up to imperialism.”

“I don't know much about Cuba,” said another student, who thanked Waters for the information she presented. “But I do know that the U.S. government and media lie about wars and spying on people and other questions. So I figure, why wouldn't they lie about Cuba too?”

Taking up students' questions about the degradation of the environment and world hunger, Waters explained, “These social conditions are a product of the capitalist system. Devastation of nature goes hand in hand with the devastation of working people.”

Waters contrasted capitalism's exploitation of land and labor worldwide to Cuba's revolutionary internationalism. The three generals fought in Angola,

## Armando Hart speaks in Mexican cities

Continued from page 6

the leadership of V.I. Lenin, while at the same time rediscovering the anti-imperialist traditions of Martí.

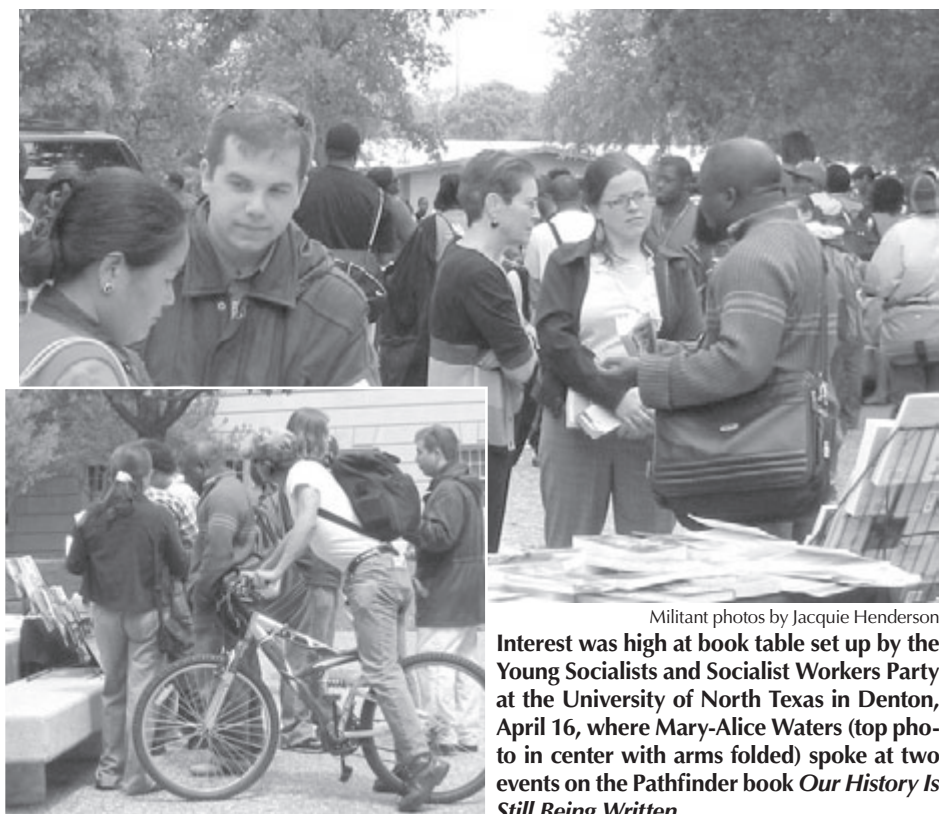
“We need to recover our historical memory. The Mexican people too have revolutionary traditions,” he said, pointing to 19th century revolutionary democratic leader Benito Juárez, the Mexican revolution of 1910, and the anti-imperialist mobilizations that led to the 1938 nationalization of Mexico's oil industry under President Lázaro Cárdenas.

At a meeting of 200, mostly students, at the Autonomous University of Nuevo León in Monterrey, Hart explained that when he joined the revolutionary movement in the 1950s, he didn't consider himself a socialist, but in fact was already influenced by Marxist ideas.

He read from a 1956 open letter he had addressed to the president of Mexico—asking for the release of Fidel Castro, who had been jailed there at the time—declaring that Cuba's revolution “will lay the foundations of a socialist and revolutionary democracy.”

Such prosocialist ideas, Hart said, “characterized my generation, those who attacked the Moncada barracks [in 1953] and others” who, like him, were not part of the old pro-Moscow Popular Socialist Party in Cuba.

Asked during the discussion period what writings on Marxism he recommended, Hart urged his audience to study the broadest range of revolutionary leaders, including Marx, Engels, Lenin, Rosa Luxemburg, Antonio Gramsci, José Carlos Mariátegui, Che Guevara, and Fidel Castro—“in the original texts,” he insisted. “We need



Militant photos by Jacquie Henderson

Interest was high at book table set up by the Young Socialists and Socialist Workers Party at the University of North Texas in Denton, April 16, where Mary-Alice Waters (top photo in center with arms folded) spoke at two events on the Pathfinder book *Our History Is Still Being Written*.

along with 300,000 other Cuban volunteers, to help the Angolan people drive out the army of apartheid South Africa.

“Cubans didn't fight in Angola for oil or diamonds or ivory or wood,” she said. “And when the South African army was finally defeated, the Cubans left and took nothing with them but their dead.”

**Does capitalism work?**

One student argued that the capitalist system offers the best opportunities for all. “Look at me,” she said. “I've had a comfortable life, can go to school, and have a good future.”

She was answered by other students who joined the debate. “I come from a

an antidogmatic understanding of Marx and Engels.”

In several of his talks Hart referred to his experience as Cuba's first minister of culture, from 1976 to 1997. In the early 1970s, he said, “sectarianism and bureaucracy”—what in the Soviet Union was called “socialist realism”—had made inroads in the implementation of cultural policies. “I had the honor of being named minister of culture in order to end those policies” and restore the original policy of the Cuban revolutionary leadership of guaranteeing full freedom of artistic expression.

At the Zacatecas Institute of Culture, Hart was introduced by Pablo González Casanova, a prominent Mexican academic figure. He praised Hart's role in promoting “respect for different currents, tastes, and interpretations” of cultural expression in Cuba.

**Not changing course**

In the discussion periods at every meeting, questions were also asked about the Cuban Revolution today. One frequent question was whether Cuba will change course now that Raúl Castro has replaced Fidel Castro as president.

A reporter at the first event in Monterrey asked Hart, referring to recent economic measures, “Is a Cuban *perestroika* now under way with Raúl Castro?” Perestroika was the term used for the procapitalist economic “reforms” carried out by the Soviet government in the late 1980s before its implosion.

“Perestroika died a long time ago,” Hart replied, adding that Cuba is taking a different road from the former Soviet Union. “We are not renouncing socialism,” he said.

working-class family in Texas,” said one. “What you describe is not true to my life or my family. Millions of us live in poverty, without good housing, adequate nutrition, or medical coverage.”

Another student pointed to Washington's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the destruction of the environment. “We have to get rid of capitalism or there will be no future for humanity,” he said.

Waters concluded by telling the students that *Our History Is Still Being Written* is a book that shows how ordinary people acted to change history. “It wasn't published for Cuba,” she said. “Above all, it was published because we need this example here.”

He was asked a similar question at the university meeting in Monterrey. Do the new measures announced by the Cuban government represent a retreat from socialism? Is Raúl Castro following the Chinese model?

“No,” Hart said. “And we don't believe in models. We are not following a model—we are following an aspiration, socialism, which we don't yet have today, but are striving toward.”

At the Zacatecas Institute of Culture Hart ended his talk with an appeal to the youth in the audience of 150, many of whom were university students. “I am addressing the new generations,” he said. “We need to promote a dialogue between the generations who made the revolution in Cuba and you, the generations that will lead the 21st century.”

The Cuban leader noted that such a dialogue must include “reaching out to North American society.” He pointed to the presence of revolutionaries from the United States at the meeting to underscore his point that the political questions he was discussing were relevant not only in Latin America but in the United States.

At the end of each meeting, members of the audience went to the literature table to buy books. Many asked the socialists from the United States about the social and political conditions facing working people there. Most said they had relatives living in Houston, Chicago, New Orleans, or other U.S. cities. Some had heard of the truckers' protests and immigrant rights demonstrations there. More than 200 books were sold at the meetings, including more than 80 copies of *Aldabonazo* and dozens of copies of the other books presented.



# Rosa Luxemburg on reforms and socialist revolution

*Below is an excerpt from Reform or Revolution by Rosa Luxemburg, one of the outstanding pre-World War I revolutionary figures. In this collection of articles Luxemburg sounds the alarm against the attempt by Eduard Bernstein, a central leader of the German Social Democratic Party, the largest socialist party of the time, to revise basic Marxist theory on the class struggle and the nature of capitalism. Copyright ©1970 Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

## BY ROSA LUXEMBURG

At first view the title of this work may be found surprising. Can the social democracy be against reforms? Can we counterpose the social revolution, the transformation of the existing order, our

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

final goal, to social reforms? Certainly not. The daily struggle for reforms, for the amelioration of the condition of the workers within the framework of the existing social order, and for democratic institutions, offers to the social democracy the only means of engaging in the proletarian class war and working in the direction of the final goal—the conquest of political power and the suppression



Rosa Luxemburg speaks at mass meeting in 1907 of German Social Democratic Party. Her book *Reform or Revolution* exposed revision of Marxism by Eduard Bernstein.

of wage labor. Between social reforms and revolution there exists for the social democracy an indissoluble tie. The struggle for reforms is its means; the social revolution, its aim.

It is in Eduard Bernstein's theory, presented in his articles on "Problems of Socialism," *Neue Zeit* of 1897–98, and in his book *Die Voraussetzungen des Sozialismus und die Aufgaben der Sozialdemokratie* [The Preconditions of Socialism and the Tasks of Social Democracy—in English published under the title *Evolutionary Socialism*—Ed.] that we find for the first time, the opposition of the two factors of the labor movement. His theory tends to counsel us to renounce the social transformation, the final goal of the social democracy and, inversely, to make of social reforms, the means of the class struggle, its aim. Bernstein himself has very clearly and characteristically formulated this viewpoint when he wrote: "The final goal, no matter what it is, is nothing; the movement is everything."

But since the final goal of socialism constitutes the only decisive factor distinguishing the social democratic movement from bourgeois democracy and from bourgeois radicalism, the only factor transforming the entire labor movement from a vain effort to repair

the capitalist order into a class struggle against this order, for the suppression of this order—the question: "Reform or revolution?" as it is posed by Bernstein, equals for the social democracy the question: "To be or not to be?" In the controversy with Bernstein and his followers, everybody in the party ought to understand clearly it is not a question of this or that method of struggle, or the use of this or that set of tactics, but of the very existence of the social democratic movement.

Upon a casual consideration of Bernstein's theory, this may appear like an exaggeration. Does he not continually mention the social democracy and its aims? Does he not repeat again and again, in very explicit language, that he too strives toward the final goal of socialism, but in another way? Does he not stress particularly that he fully approves of the present practice of the social democracy?

That is all true, to be sure. It is also true that every new movement, when it first elaborates its theory and policy, begins by finding support in the preceding movement, though it may be in direct contradiction with the latter. It begins by suiting itself to the forms found at hand and by speaking the language spoken hereto. In time, the new grain

breaks through the old husk. The new movement finds its own forms and its own language.

To expect an opposition against scientific socialism at its very beginning, to express itself clearly, fully, and to the last consequence on the subject of its real content; to expect it to deny openly and bluntly the theoretic basis of the social democracy—would amount to underrating the power of scientific socialism. Today he who wants to pass as a socialist, and at the same time would declare war on Marxian doctrine, the most stupendous product of the human mind in the century, must begin with involuntary esteem for Marx. He must begin by acknowledging himself to be his disciple, by seeking in Marx's own teachings the points of support for an attack on the latter, while he represents this attack as a further development of Marxian doctrine. On this account, we must, unconcerned by its outer forms, pick out the sheathed kernel of Bernstein's theory. This is a matter of urgent necessity for the broad layers of the industrial proletariat in our party.

No coarser insult, no baser aspersion, can be thrown against the workers than the remark: "Theoretic controversies are only for academicians." Some time ago Lassalle said: "Only when science and the workers, these opposite poles of society, become one, will they crush in their arms of steel all obstacles to culture." The entire strength of the modern labor movement rests on theoretic knowledge.

But doubly important is this knowledge for the workers in the present case, because it is precisely they and their influence in the movement that are in the balance here. It is their skin that is being brought to market. The opportunist theory in the party, the theory formulated by Bernstein, is nothing else than an unconscious attempt to assure predominance to the petty bourgeois elements that have entered our party, to change the policy and aims of our party in their direction. The question of reform and revolution, of the final goal and the movement, is basically, in another form, but the question of the petty bourgeois or proletarian character of the labor movement.

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# SWP CAMPAIGN STATEMENT

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## All out for May Day! Legalization now!

**Continued from front page**  
home this year.

Legalization is not just a question facing workers who were born in other countries. The entire structure of labor in the United States has changed over the last decades as the bosses have more and more relied on a layer of the working class with no legal rights who they hoped would be cowed into accepting lower wages, subpar conditions, and less safety. The bosses tried to use immigrant workers to try to drive down everyone's wages and to push the unions out of the workplaces.

But something different has happened: more and more immigrant and U.S.-born workers have united and stood up as a class to the union-busting and to the ICE attacks. We have refused to allow the employers to sow divisions among us based on our country of origin. A new working-class vanguard is emerging in the course of these struggles. While in its majority comprised of immigrant workers, it is not an immigrant vanguard. Its actions enrich struggles by working people of all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds because it is showing that working people can stand up against seemingly insurmountable odds to assert their self-worth. This

is the road forward for the building of a fighting labor movement.

This is also the most important single "domestic" question in U.S. politics. The outcome of the debate on this issue is decisive to building an independent labor party in this country, one based on combative trade unions. The working class has no voice in the capitalist government. My three main opponents for the presidency—Hillary Clinton, John McCain, and Barack Obama—all favor maintaining second-class status for undocumented workers. They all support tougher borders, and, as senators, voted to fund the wall on the Mexican border. The working class needs a labor party that can fight for the broad interests of the working class—both in the United States and internationally—in the political arena.

A labor party will introduce legislation for the immediate, unconditional legalization of all. It will fight for a halt to all deportation proceedings.

It will campaign to take all the tractors and construction equipment being used to build the wall on the border with Mexico and deploy them instead in a massive public works program that can put millions to work at union-scale wages.

All out for May Day! Legalization now!

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## Houston rally protests raids, builds May Day

**Continued from front page**

the *Houston Chronicle*. "They work hard, and they do jobs most people won't."

The raid took place the same day the immigration police arrested 290 workers at Pilgrim's Pride poultry plants in east Texas, Arkansas, Florida, West Virginia, and Tennessee.

Immigrant rights groups here organized a noon picket line April 16 at the Federal Building to protest the raids. They used the action to publicize the upcoming march and rally in Houston on May 1 demanding legalization for all immigrants. Participants will assemble at 2 p.m. in front of the Mickey Leland Federal Building at 1919 Smith Street. They will then march to Antioch Park for a rally.

"We're inviting the community to stand up for itself," said Cesar Espinoza, an organizer with the Central American Resource Center (Crecen) in southwest Houston, in an April 9 press conference announcing the May Day march. "We need to fight laws that damage our communities and our families."

The Houston march is part of a nationwide call for actions in defense of immigrant rights. Actions are planned in at least 40 cities. In many cases workers are planning to take the day off from work.

Today the gates along the chain link fence around the Shipley warehouse and the company trailer homes are locked and flagged with bright orange stickers left by the local cops. Coverage of

the raid has also highlighted the fact that the overwhelmingly immigrant workforce at the company had a history of fighting back against company abuse.

In 2006, 15 Shipley's workers filed a discrimination lawsuit against the company seeking damages for abusive treatment.

The company settled the lawsuit in February, but the details of the settlement were never made public.

According to the *Chronicle*, Joel Sixtos, a Shipley worker from Michoacán, Mexico, testified in his deposition that the plant manager threatened him with deportation if he complained.

"He would call me a wetback. He would tell us that killing me was like killing a dog. He told me that I was Mexican, I like to eat a lot of tacos, that I also like chile. He would, well, humiliate me," Sixtos said.

Workers also claimed that the company evicted those from company housing who complained about their treatment at the warehouse.

The housing was free to workers and their families, company president Lawrence Shipley III told investigators in the civil suit. But workers testified that the plant manager charged them a fee as high as \$550 to move in. He also would charge them money to enter a raffle to work overtime on weekends, and \$50 to see the company doctor.

*Anthony Dutrow contributed to this article*

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## Truckers call national protest April 28

**Continued from front page**

of the organizers. He expects hundreds of truckers and their supporters to rally at the Reflecting Pool on the west side of the U.S. Capitol beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Schaffner explained that, when you look at the high cost of heating oil, this is "an issue that impacts on fishermen, construction workers, the retired community, everyone."

Truckers will be coming from as far away as Maine, Indiana, Florida, Missouri, and California. You don't have to be a truck driver to attend, he said, everyone is encouraged to join the action.

Schaffner said he favors three immediate measures to ease the fuel crisis: the release of all oil from the national strategic reserve, that companies be required pay the driver the full amount of the fuel surcharge billed to their customers, and at least a temporary cap of \$2 per gallon on the cost of all fuel: gas, diesel, and home heating oil.

A meeting to build the protest in Washington will

be held at the Gables truck stop, off exit 77 of I-81 near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. This truck stop has become a center for truckers protesting fuel prices and place where several truckers' meetings have been held. A convoy of about 200 trucks departed from there March 31 for a rally on the capitol steps in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Truckers will also be coming from nearby West Virginia. More than 60 rigs, including trailerless tractors, coal trucks, lumber haulers, and tow trucks converged on the state capitol in Charleston, West Virginia, April 4. At that rally, trucker Donald Cottrill said his weekly fuel bill had climbed to \$2,500 from \$500 nine years ago.

Schaffner said about 150 truckers will meet at the Gables truck stop April 28 at 5:00 a.m. and convoy to Washington. There will be parking at RFK Stadium.

Truckers are also planning national shutdowns for May 1 and May 5. More information is available on line at [TheAmericanDriver.com](http://TheAmericanDriver.com).

## Chicago picket: 'Stop the raids and deportations!'



Militant/Laura Anderson

**Picket line April 18 outside office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement protests April 16 raids.**

**BY LAURA ANDERSON  
AND BETSY FARLEY**

CHICAGO, April 18—Chanting "Stop the raids and deportations!" some 50 people picketed outside the downtown office of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protest a string of workplace raids.

ICE arrested nearly 300 workers employed by Pilgrims Pride poultry, in dawn raids April 16 at plants in five states and at workers' homes. The company worked with ICE to target workers.

"We knew in advance and cooperated fully," Ray Atkinson, a Pilgrim's Pride spokesman, told the media. ICE announced that 91 workers face criminal charges of identity theft.

Raids also took place that day at a donut factory in Houston and at a chain of seven restaurants in western New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

"The raids and other forms of repression serve no purpose other than to create fear and terror in immigrant communities across the country," read the call for the protest issued by the immigrant rights group the March 10 Movement. Demonstrators called for a moratorium on raids and the release of all those arrested.

"On May Day 2008, we will be marching for equal rights for all workers; legalization now!; and an immediate end to workplace raids and deportations," read the call.

The Chicago march will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Union Park at Ashland Avenue and Lake Street.

More than 100 unions, immigrant rights groups, student groups, and other organizations have endorsed. Flyers are being distributed in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Tagalog.

At an April 17 press conference here at the Haymarket Memorial, Margarita Klein, staff director for UNITE HERE Chicago and Midwest Regional Joint Board, said, "Today we are demanding not only legalization, but that all workers have medical insurance, rights, and the dignity they deserve."

Joining Klein were representatives of the Chicago Federation of Labor, United Food and Commercial Workers, and the Service Employees International Union, urging participation in the May 1 march.

ICE conducted large raids on the eve of these May Day actions last year as well.

In 2007, on April 24 in the predominately Mexican neighborhood of Little Village, known as La Villita, ICE agents, some with automatic weapons, surrounded a popular shopping mall, trapping dozens inside. Instead of instilling fear, the raid sparked widespread outrage. Working people turned out for the May Day rally in higher numbers than projected.

On April 27, a march for immigrant rights has been called in Belvidere, Illinois. It begins at 2:30 p.m. at 1313 State Street. Organizers are encouraging participants to also join the May 1 rally in Chicago.